

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing a decorative preformed flower pot cover having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper, the method comprising the steps of:

providing at least one sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material having an upper surface, a lower surface and mechanical and structural characteristics of a polymer from which the sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material is formed, at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material being printed, embossed, lacquered or combinations thereof to provide a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper, thereby providing a decorative appearance to the decorative preformed flower pot cover formed therefrom while maintaining the mechanical and structural characteristics of the polymer from which the sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material is formed; and

forming the sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material into a preformed flower pot cover comprising:

a base having a closed lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover;

a decorative border which extends outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the decorative border having an outer peripheral surface and an inner peripheral surface; and

wherein at least a portion of one of the outer peripheral surface of the base, the outer peripheral surface of the decorative border and the inner peripheral surface of the decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover is provided with the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein, in the step of forming the sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material into a preformed flower pot cover, a substantial portion of the overlapping folds in the base of the

decorative preformed flower pot cover extend over different distances and at various and arbitrary angles.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein, in the step of forming the sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material into a preformed flower pot cover, the decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover is substantially free of permanently connected overlapping folds.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein, in the step of providing the at least one sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material, the at least one sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material comprises:

a polymeric film having an upper surface and a lower surface, at least a portion of the lower surface of the polymeric film being printed, embossed, lacquered or combinations thereof so as to provide a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper; and

an acrylic heat sealable lacquer disposed on at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the polymeric film whereby, upon forming the sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material into the decorative preformed flower pot cover, at least a

portion of the overlapping folds formed in the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover are connected via the acrylic heat sealable lacquer.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the polymeric film is further provided with at least one of a printed pattern, an embossed pattern and combinations thereof in addition to the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein the polymeric film is further provided with printed and embossed patterns on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof, and the printed and embossed patterns are in registry with one another.
7. The method of claim 5 wherein the polymeric film is further provided with printed and embossed patterns on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof, and the printed and embossed patterns are out of registry with one another.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein, in the step of providing the at least one sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material, the at

least one sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material comprises:

a polymeric film having an upper surface and a lower surface, at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the polymeric film being printed, embossed, lacquered or combinations thereof to provide a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper; and

a substantially water impervious polymeric film laminated to the polymeric film.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the polymeric film is further provided with at least one of a printed pattern, an embossed pattern and combinations thereof in addition to the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the polymeric film is further provided with printed and embossed patterns on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof, and the printed and embossed patterns are in registry with one another.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein the polymeric film is further provided with printed and embossed patterns on at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces thereof, and the printed and embossed patterns are out of registry with one another.

12. The method of claim 8 wherein the polymeric film and the substantially water impervious polymeric film are laminated with a colored adhesive.

13. The method of claim 8 wherein the polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from about 0.6 mil to about 1.25 mil and the substantially water impervious polymeric film laminated to the polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from about 0.6 mil to about 1.25 mil.

14. A method for providing a decorative preformed flower pot cover having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material comprising:

a polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and mechanical and structural characteristics of a polymer from which the polymeric film is formed, at least a portion of the

lower surface of the polymeric film being embossed, printed, lacquered or combinations thereof to provide a portion of the lower surface of the polymeric film with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper, thereby providing a decorative appearance to the decorative preformed flower pot cover formed therefrom while maintaining the mechanical and structural characteristics of the polymer from which the polymeric film is formed; and a substantially water impervious polymeric film laminated to the polymeric film;

forming the flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material into a decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising: a base having a closed lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover;

a decorative border which extends outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the decorative border having an outer peripheral surface and an inner peripheral surface; and wherein at least a portion of one of the outer peripheral surface of the base, the outer peripheral surface of the decorative border and the inner peripheral surface of the decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover is provided with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein, in the step of providing the flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material, the polymeric film and the substantially water impervious polymeric film are laminated with a colored adhesive.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein, in the step of providing the flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material, the polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from about 0.6 mil to about 1.25 mil, the substantially water impervious polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from about 0.6 mil to about 1.25 mil and the flexible, substantially non-shape

sustaining polymeric material has a thickness in the range of from about 1.2 mil to about 2.5 mil.

17. A method for providing a decorative preformed flower pot cover having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material comprising an expanded core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and mechanical and structural characteristics of a polymer from which the expanded core polymeric film is formed, wherein at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded core polymeric film is printed, embossed, lacquered or combinations thereof to provide the expanded core polymeric film with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper, thereby providing a decorative appearance to the decorative preformed flower pot cover formed therefrom while maintaining the mechanical and structural characteristics of the polymer from which the expanded core polymeric film is formed; and

forming the flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material into a decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising:

a base having a closed lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover;

a decorative border which extends outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the decorative border having an outer peripheral surface and an inner peripheral surface; and

wherein at least a portion of one of the outer peripheral surface of the base, the inner peripheral surface of the decorative border and the outer peripheral surface of the decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover is printed, embossed, lacquered or combinations thereof to provide a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein, in the step of providing the flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material, at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded core polymeric film is further provided with at least one of a printed pattern, an embossed pattern and combinations thereof in addition to the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded core polymeric film is further provided with printed and embossed patterns, and the printed and embossed patterns are in registry with one another.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein at least one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded core polymeric film is further provided with printed and embossed patterns, and the printed and embossed patterns are out of registry with one another.

21. A method for forming a decorative preformed flower pot cover having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material comprising an expanded core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and mechanical and structural characteristics of a polymer from which the expanded core polymeric film is formed, wherein at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of the expanded core polymeric film is printed to provide the expanded core polymeric material with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper, thereby providing a decorative appearance to the decorative preformed flower pot cover formed therefrom while maintaining the mechanical and structural characteristics of the polymer from which the expanded core polymeric film is formed; and

forming the flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material into a decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising: a base having a closed lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially

flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover; a decorative border which extends outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the decorative border having an outer peripheral surface and an inner peripheral surface; and wherein at least a portion of one of the outer peripheral surface of the base, the outer peripheral surface of the decorative border and the inner peripheral surface of the decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover is provided with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper.

22. A method for forming a decorative preformed flower pot cover having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material comprising an expanded core polymeric film having an upper surface, a lower surface and structural and mechanical characteristics of a polymer from which the expanded core polymeric film is formed, wherein at least a portion of one of the

upper and lower surfaces of the expanded core polymeric film is provided with an embossed pattern to provide the expanded core polymeric material with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper, thereby providing a decorative appearance to the decorative preformed flower pot cover formed therefrom while maintaining the mechanical and structural characteristics of the polymer from which the expanded core polymeric film is formed; and

forming the flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material into a decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising: a base having a closed lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover;

a decorative border which extends outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the decorative border having an outer peripheral surface and an inner peripheral surface; and

wherein at least a portion of one of the outer peripheral surface of the base, the outer peripheral surface of the decorative border and the inner peripheral surface of the decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover is provided with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein, in the step of providing the flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining material, the expanded core polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from about 0.6 mil to about 10 mil.

24. A method for forming a decorative preformed flower pot cover having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the method comprising the steps of:
providing a flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material comprising:
a polymeric film having an upper surface and a lower surface;
a sheet of material laminated to at least one of the upper surface and the lower surface of the polymeric film to provide a laminated material; and

wherein at least a portion of one of the upper and lower surfaces of one of the polymeric film and the sheet of material laminated thereto is printed, embossed, lacquered or combinations thereof to provide a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper so that the laminated material is provided with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper on at least a portion of one surface thereof, thereby providing a decorative appearance to the decorative preformed flower pot cover formed therefrom while maintaining mechanical and structural characteristics of a polymer from which the polymeric film is formed; and

forming the flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material into a decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising: a base having a closed lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially

flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover; a decorative border which extends outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the decorative border having an outer peripheral surface and an inner peripheral surface; and wherein at least a portion of one of the outer peripheral surface of the base, the outer peripheral surface of the decorative border and the inner peripheral surface of the decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover is provided with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein, in the step of providing the flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material, the polymeric film and the sheet of material are laminated with a colored adhesive.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein the polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from about 0.6 mil to about 1.25 mil, the sheet of material laminated to the polymeric film has a thickness in the range of from about 0.6 mil to

about 1.25 mil and the laminated material has a thickness in the range of from about 1.2 mil to about 2.5 mil.

27. A method for forming a decorative preformed flower pot cover having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material comprising:

a first sheet of polymeric material having an upper surface and a lower surface, wherein at least a portion of the lower surface of the first sheet of polymeric material is printed, embossed, lacquered or combinations thereof to provide a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper; and

a second sheet of polymeric material laminated to one of the upper and lower surfaces of the first sheet of polymeric material to provide a flexible, non-shape sustaining laminated material wherein the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper of the first sheet of flexible, non-shape sustaining polymeric material is visible on the flexible, non-shape sustaining laminated material, thereby providing a

decorative appearance to the decorative preformed flower pot cover formed therefrom while maintaining the mechanical and structural characteristics of the first and second sheets of polymeric material; and

forming the flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material into a decorative preformed flower pot cover comprising: a base having a closed lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, the base of the decorative preformed flower pot cover having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the decorative preformed flower pot cover may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the decorative preformed flower pot cover;

a decorative border which extends outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the decorative border having an outer peripheral surface and an inner peripheral surface; and wherein at least a portion of one of the outer peripheral surface of the base, the outer peripheral surface of the decorative border and the inner peripheral surface of the decorative border of the decorative preformed flower pot cover is

provided with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein, in the step of providing the flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material, the first and second sheets of polymeric material are laminated with a colored adhesive.

29. A substantially flexible, polymeric shape-sustaining flower pot having a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper on at least a portion of one surface thereof, the substantially flexible, polymeric shape-sustaining flower pot comprising:

a base having a closed lower end, an open upper end, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface and a retaining space, the base of the substantially flexible, polymeric shape-sustaining flower pot having a plurality of overlapping folds of which at least a portion are permanently connected so that the substantially flexible, polymeric shape-sustaining flower pot may be substantially flattened and then unflattened to assume the original shape of the substantially flexible, polymeric shape-sustaining flower pot;

a decorative border which extends outwardly from the open upper end of the base, the decorative border having an outer peripheral surface and an inner peripheral surface;

wherein at least a portion of one of the outer peripheral surface of the base, the outer peripheral surface of the decorative border and the inner peripheral surface of the decorative border of the substantially flexible, polymeric shape-sustaining flower pot is provided with a texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper; and

wherein the substantially flexible, polymeric shape-sustaining flower pot is formed of a sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material having a thickness in the range of from about 0.1 mil to about 30 mil, whereby the sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material is printed, embossed, lacquered or combinations thereof to provide the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper while maintaining structural and mechanical characteristics of the sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material.

30. The substantially flexible, polymeric shape-sustaining flower pot of claim 29 wherein the sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric

material is further provided with a printed pattern on at least a portion of one surface thereof in addition to the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper.

31. The substantially flexible, polymeric shape-sustaining flower pot of claim 30 wherein the sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material is further provided with an embossed pattern on at least a portion of one surface thereof.

32. The substantially flexible, polymeric shape-sustaining flower pot of claim 31 wherein the printed and embossed patterns are in register with one another.

33. The substantially flexible, polymeric shape-sustaining flower pot of claim 31 wherein the printed and embossed patterns are out of register with one another.

34. The substantially flexible, polymeric shape-sustaining flower pot of claim 31 wherein at least a portion of the printed and embossed patterns are in register with one another and at least a portion of the printed and embossed patterns are out of register with one another.

35. The substantially flexible, polymeric shape-sustaining flower pot of claim 29 wherein the sheet of flexible, substantially non-shape sustaining polymeric material is further provided with an embossed pattern on at least a portion of one surface thereof in addition to the texture or appearance simulating the texture or appearance of paper.